



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Town Council

From: Matt Hart, Town Manager

Date: October 9, 2018

CC: Human Right Commission

Subject: Resolution (Kerrigan, Fay, Wenograd) Declaring the Town of West Hartford to be a Town of Compassion. (20186)

Background: In late 2017 the Town Council's Human Services Committee began to discuss a recommendation from the West Hartford Human Rights Commission that the Council officially endorse the international Charter of Compassion.

At staff's recommendation and after significant review, the Human Services Committee determined that it would be preferable for the Town to adopt its own standalone resolution attesting to the important role that compassion plays in our community, as opposed to adopting the model charter.

The attached resolution would direct the Human Rights Commission to work with Town staff to develop an annual calendar of events that further promote compassion within the community, and to periodically recognize those individuals and organizations that serve as champions of compassion.

Legal Review: Corporation Counsel has reviewed the proposed resolution as to form.

Recommendation: The Human Services Committee presents the proposed resolution to the full Council for its consideration.

Attachments: Proposed Resolution

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
TO BE A TOWN OF COMPASSION**

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford recognizes that compassion is an essential quality that defines humanity, calling us to treat all others as we would wish to be treated ourselves; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission has worked tirelessly to foster mutual understanding and respect among people, and to encourage equality of treatment of all people; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford holds itself to a community standard where all individuals are heard and their rights are respected without regard to their age, ancestry, color, marital status, national origin, disability, race, religious creed, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford has used compassion as a way to break down barriers by regularly engaging in activities and events that encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity; and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Public Schools are well-known for their curriculum that gives accurate and respectful information about the many traditions and cultures that are part of the fabric of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford values the many individuals and organizations that contribute, through their actions and deeds, to make West Hartford a compassionate community; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of West Hartford publically reaffirms its commitment to these principles and shall continue to build on its rich history of compassion by treating all people with respect, and reaching out to those in need by caring for people who find themselves in circumstances where they need a helping hand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council directs the West Hartford Human Rights Commission to assist Town staff in developing an annual calendar for residents detailing events within West Hartford that further promote compassion in the community, and with periodically recognizing individuals or institutions that champion compassion by making significant or unique contributions to our community.

(Kerrigan, Fay, Wenograd)
10/09/2018